

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 8, 1850.

Democratic Convention.

It seems now to be agreed upon that a Democratic State Convention will be held sometime in May, if not sooner, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor. Of course, New Hanover county will be represented in that Convention; and as it has been the usage to appoint delegates at March Court, we take this opportunity to announce that, on Tuesday evening of Court week (the 12th of March,) there will be a meeting of the Democratic party of New Hanover county held at the Court-House in this town. We make this announcement at the suggestion of all the friends with whom we have conversed upon the subject, and we have no doubt but it will meet with the concurrence of all our friends throughout the county, who, we hope, will see that every portion is represented. Let us have a full meeting to begin with.

We would suggest to our Democratic friends in other counties the propriety of holding meetings, at the earliest opportunity, and appointing delegates to the State Convention, which, for various reasons, it is highly desirable should be full.

A Democratic State Convention.

Our friends of the Carolinian and Standard have been agitating the question of holding a State Convention of the Democratic party, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Governor. The fixing upon time and place seems to be the only difficulty, as we believe it is conceded on all hands that a Convention should be and will be held. By the way, we notice that a good many of the upper counties have agreed, but named any time or place. As regards the place, we presume it will be held in Raleigh, and we have no objection;—as regards the time, we go for the very latest day that can be named. We think, for several reasons, that a late day should be fixed upon, especially as the canvass will be long enough, and too long, if the candidate is expected to travel through the State.

If the nomination of the place were left to us, we would unhesitatingly say Wilmington, as being in many respects the most accessible, besides being the largest and most flourishing town in the State. The people of the centre and west know very little of the east, and especially of Wilmington. They have been in Raleigh, and they know it; but let them get down here and it will dissipate much of the prejudice which exists between the different portions of the State.—North Carolinians of the East and of the West do not know each other. They should become acquainted. A large number of Railroad and other Conventions have been held at Greensboro' and other points West. Let us now have a few State gatherings here in the East.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.—We are indebted to Messrs. ASHIE and CLINGMAN, of the House of Representatives, for valuable public documents.

THE CONCERT.—In another column will be found the bill of the HOHNSTOCK FAMILY. We have no doubt, from the notices in the Northern papers, that their performance will be found well worthy the attention of all the lovers of music in our town.

The Circus.—Who and who does not? will rejoice to learn that STONE & McCOLLUM'S Circus, with the inimitable DAN RICE in company, will be in town next week. We have witnessed Dan's performances of old, and having become a life-member of the sober-sided fraternity who never laugh, we cannot afford to go, as we would inevitably break our pledge. We would advise everybody, who has any conscientious scruples against mirth, to stay at home, but all who believe in the old maxim, "laugh and grow fat," should go, by all means.

Literary Notices.—To begin with, we must acknowledge the receipt of Messrs. LEONARD SCOTT & Co.'s reprint of BLACKWOOD for January. This glorious old magazine seems to improve with age, and the only fault we can find, it arises from its surpassing interest, which always compels us to read it through without stopping. The leading political paper is a very able article, headed "The Year of Reaction." "My Peninsular Medal," and "The Green Hand," are continued.—The number also contains several other fine articles.

THE SCHOOLFELLOW, or Magazine for Boys and Girls, is the name of a very pretty and interesting juvenile periodical, the first number of the second volume of which we have received from the publishers, RICHARDS & WALKER, Charleston, S. C. The price of the Schoolfellow is \$1 per annum, in advance. It is very handsomely "got up." Messrs. R. & W. are also the publishers of the Southern Literary Gazette, a handsome family paper, at \$2, in advance.

We have received from Messrs. HENRY LONG & Co., of New York, two numbers of their "Library of Select Novels," "The Matchmaker," and "The Three Golden Balls, or the Diary of a Pawnbroker." The first we have glanced over. We forget the name of the writer, who is evidently a lady, as no individual of the un-gentler sex could or would display so intimate an acquaintance with the arena of the female toilet. The plot is old and worn out—that of an aged gentleman of wealth, very much to be pitied by the world, who suspects and determines to try his friends by pretending to be ruined. His summer friends leave him—the affianced bride of his only son marries another, and there is a robbery in a general way, which winds up by the son falling in love with the right girl, the old man explaining the mystery—the usual finale of a wedding, followed by half a dozen more, and—further than this, novels go not.

The "Matchmaker" is an average novel of its class, and will while away an hour reasonably well, indeed one character, that of Ellen Lindsay, is very beautiful, and the episode of old Grizzie Douglas is strikingly affecting. We suppose Mr. Pierce has these publications at the Bookstore.

Cheering.—By a reference to the Congressional proceedings of Monday last, it will be seen that the firebrand resolutions introduced into the House by Root and Giddings, were promptly voted down by handsome majorities—Root's by 26, and Giddings' by 15. It is plain that all parties are tired of such humbugs. In the expressive but coarse language of a correspondent of a Northern paper, the proviso is a "dead cock in the pit"—it will fight no more battles. The bubble has burst, and those who kept it inflated are fast losing their consequence. Much of this is owing to the position assumed by the South, which has set the Northern people to thinking. Something of it is owing to the disgust which the conduct of the Free Soilers, in preventing an organization, created among all parties.

AUTOGRAPH LETTER.—An Autograph Letter of Gen. JACKSON, communicated to the Choctaws of Mississippi, through Maj. HOLLEY, of Madison, and by him presented to that State, was received recently, and ordered to be placed in the Library of the Senate.

LOUISIANA.—The message of Gov. JOHNSON, of Louisiana, sent in to the Legislature of that State on the 21st ultimo, recommends and urges the appointment of delegates to the Nashville Convention. Gov. JOHNSON adheres to the ground of entire non-intervention by Congress in the matter of slavery.

Mr. Clay's Compromise.

In our Congressional report will be found Mr. CLAY'S resolutions, which he offered last week in the Senate by way of compromise of the slavery question. From the debate, we should judge that they did not meet the views of even one man from the South, Mr. CLAY excepted, and if they pass at all, they cannot be regarded as a compromise, for they will owe their passage exclusively to Northern votes. They will not pass, not at least, in their present form, nor without a total remodelling. They substantially concede everything to the North; and, indeed, so evident is this, that we have not found one paper of either party at the South, which has ventured to approve of them. Perhaps something may grow out of them which will be beneficial to the Union; but we have no such expectation. Still, although we have no hope from this quarter, we by no means despair of a just and amicable settlement of the slavery question at the present session. A re-action has unquestionably taken place at the North. Pennsylvania has set the example, by the refusal of her Legislature to re-enact the anti-slavery resolution of the last Legislature. The correspondent of the Boston Post, writing from Washington City, under date of the 26th ult., says:

I am also enabled to inform you that news has reached here from several western States of the willingness of the people to drop the proviso, as producing dangerous and unnecessary agitation for no rational end. Senators and members from the west thus feel relieved, and begin to act independently on the subject. The result is, beyond the possibility of a doubt, a decided and unequivocal defeat of the Wilmot Proviso in the Senate, and the probability of its defeat in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Buchanan, of Pa., who arrived here on Thursday, yesterday, has been refused to re-enact the Wilmot Proviso, which is practically equal to rescinding it. Some of the Pennsylvania members were at any rate opposed to the Proviso, and would have voted against it, whatever might have been the action of their Legislature.

We also discover indications of such a state of feeling in several of our western democratic exchanges. In a late number of the Marshall, Ill. Democrat, we find a very sensible article on this subject, in which the issue is plainly presented—Wilmot Proviso and disunion, or non-intervention and Union, and the Democrat goes boldly for non-intervention. The impression is gaining ground at the North, that the South is in earnest, and this impression is producing its effect in inclining the people of the North to respect her rights.

Murderous Attempt.

An esteemed correspondent in Sampson county has sent us the annexed statement of a most outrageous affair, which took place in that county on the night of the 30th ultimo. We join with him in hoping that the blood-thirsty villain may be brought to condign punishment:

SPRING VALE P. O., Sampson county, N. C., 4th February, 1850.

Messrs. FULTON & PRICE—Gentlemen: It gives me great pain to have to communicate to you the details of a most fendish and brutal attempt to commit murder, which was made, on the night of the 30th ultimo, upon the body of Mr. ARCHIBALD BELL, a citizen of Sampson county, residing near the Duplin line, and just above this place.

Upon the night in question, Mr. BELL, who was severely attacked with headache, had lain down on a bench before the fire, all his family, with the exception of one daughter, having left the house, when, about 9 o'clock, some person who had got secretly up to the house, put a gun through a crack of the door, within five feet of Mr. BELL's head, and fired, the bullet entering the head above the left eye, shooting that and the whole face completely away. The load passed on into his arm, tearing that into atoms. In this shocking manner, Mr. BELL, (whose name was not physicians near,) lay bleeding until morning, when those good and kind Samaritans, Drs. SHAW and HICKS, arrived to his assistance. One of his eyes was entirely shot out, and fell upon the floor. It would be impossible to conceive a scene more heart-rending than the carnage of poor BELL presents. A battle field could show nothing more revolting to the feelings. It is useless to comment upon this diabolical act, which is rendered doubly atrocious from the fact that Mr. BELL is a poor man, with a family of eleven children, who are now left without any visible means of support. Although poor and in feeble health, Mr. BELL has always sustained the reputation of a strictly honest and honorable man, and was never known to do a dishonest act, or to beg from any one. No motive can be found for the commission of this crime, nor have any certain traces of the perpetrator as yet been discovered, but it is hoped that the guilty party or parties will soon be found out, and the person who pulled the trigger, or who contrived to have poor BELL butchered, be brought to condign punishment. At this writing, BELL is not dead, but there can be no possible hope of his recovery.

E. D. V.

Terrible Explosion and Loss of Life—One Hundred People Killed in the Ruins.

We learn that on last Monday morning the large steam-boiler in the extensive machine establishment of Mr. TAYLOR, located in Hague street, New York, blew up, with a most tremendous explosion, entirely destroying the building, and burying those who were in it in the ruins. The number of killed and wounded is estimated at over a hundred, perhaps as many as one hundred and thirty. The number of hands employed by Mr. TAYLOR was about seventy, nearly all of whom were in the building. Messrs. S. JOHNS, BARR & Co., who occupied a part of the same building, as a hat manufactory, employed about an equal number of hands, (men and boys,) who were mostly there at the time of the explosion. There was also a book bindery in the same building, in which a large number of young ladies, girls, and boys, were employed. Owing to the intense cold, very few of the females had come; some, however, had arrived, and, it is believed, were buried under the ruins. The building was set on fire by the explosion, and streams of water had to be poured on it to extinguish the flames, by which it is feared that many persons in the ruins have been drowned. All day on Monday an eager crowd gathered around the ruins, endeavoring to extricate the dead and wounded. Some twenty-five had been got out, but so mutilated as hardly to be recognized. Shrieks and groans were still heard from amid the smouldering building.

The explosion is supposed to have occurred from the water having frozen in the pipes. The fireman kindled the fires somewhat earlier than usual, and the catastrophe occurred soon after the steam commenced generating. As soon as the boiler exploded, the entire building was raised some six or eight feet from its foundation, and tumbled down, crushing nearly every one it. The loss of property is estimated at about \$85,000, mostly covered by insurance.

STEAMBOATS.—There was fifty-one Steamboats built and registered at Pittsburgh, Pa., during the year 1849, the aggregate tonnage of which was 7,286 tons, and costing from \$40,000 down to \$5,000 each.

EMIGRATION.—There has been a daily average of 673 emigrants arriving at the port of N. York since the commencement of the present year, or at the rate of a quarter of a million per annum.

The colored population of Philadelphia is estimated at 42,000, the most of whom are in a depraved condition.

Thirty-First Congress—First Session.

Tuesday, January 29, 1850. SENATE.

The first business of any public importance, or, at least, of any interest to our readers, was the introduction, by Mr. CLAY, of his proposed compromise of the slavery question. Which is contained in eight resolutions, as follows:

1. It being desirable for peace, concord, and harmony of the Union of these States, to settle and adjust amicably all existing questions of controversy between them arising out of the institutions of slavery, upon a fair, equitable and just basis; Therefore,
1st. Resolved, That California, with suitable boundaries, ought upon her application to be admitted as one of the States of the Union, without the imposition by Congress of any restriction in respect to the exclusion or introduction of slavery within those boundaries.

2d. Resolved, That as slavery does not exist by law, and is not likely to be introduced into any of the territories acquired by the U. States from the Republic of Mexico; it is inexpedient for Congress to provide by law either for its introduction into or exclusion from any part of the said territory; and that appropriate Territorial Governments ought to be established by Congress in all of the said territory, not assigned as the boundaries of the proposed State of California, without the adoption of any restriction or condition on the subject of slavery.

3d. Resolved, That the western boundary of the State of Texas ought to be fixed on the Rio del Norte, commencing one marine league from its mouth, and running up that river to the Southern line of New Mexico; thence with that line eastwardly, and so continuing in the same direction to the line as established between the U. S. and Spain, excluding any portion of New Mexico, whether lying on the east or west of that river.

4th. Resolved, That it be proposed to the State of Texas that the United States will provide for the payment of all that portion of the legitimate and lawful public debt of that State contracted prior to the annexation to the United States, and for which the duties on foreign imports were pledged by the said State to its creditors, not exceeding the sum of \$—, in consideration of the said duties so pledged having been no longer applicable to that object after the said annexation, but having thenceforward become payable to the United States; and upon the condition also that the said State of Texas shall, by some solemn and authentic act of her Legislature, or of a convention, relinquish to the United States any claim which it has to any part of New Mexico.

5th. Resolved, That it is inexpedient to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, whilst that institution continues to exist in the State of Maryland, without the consent of that State, without the consent of the people of the District, and without just compensation to the owners of slaves within the District of Columbia.

6th. But resolved, That it is expedient to prohibit within the District the slave trade, in slaves brought into it from States or places beyond the limits of the District, either to be sold therein as merchandise, or to be transported to other markets without the District of Columbia.

7th. Resolved, That more effectual provision ought to be made by law, according to the requirements of the Constitution, for the restoration and delivery of persons bound to service or labor in any State, who may escape into any other State or Territory in the Union.

8th. Resolved, That Congress has no power to prohibit or obstruct the trade in slaves between the slaveholding States; but that the admission or exclusion of slaves brought from one into another of them, depends exclusively upon their own particular laws.

Mr. CLAY commented on these resolutions, remarking, in regard to the first, that the action of California, in framing a constitution, was somewhat out of order, but so had been that of Michigan, which, in a similar manner, had formed herself a constitution, and knocked at the doors of Congress for admission as a State, without any previous act of Congress authorizing such course. Michigan was admitted, and he thought California should be admitted also.

In regard to the second, Mr. CLAY said that it proposed a declaration of two truths, one of law, the other of fact. In his opinion the existing law of the territories acquired from Mexico was opposed to slavery, and so far as he could judge, the actual facts of the case were unfavorable to its introduction. He did not believe that it would be introduced into one foot of the new territory. He thought it the sacred duty of Congress to provide governments for the territories, without any proviso for the exclusion or admission of slavery.

The third and fourth resolutions have reference to the territory and public debt of the State of Texas. The boundaries proposed for Texas are such as to relinquish to the United States all the territory which that State claims in New Mexico, and the United States is to assume the payment of all that debt for which Texas, while an independent nation, pledged the duty upon imports. Mr. CLAY does not think that Texas has any right to any of the lands in New Mexico, but she has a claim, and for the extinguishment of this claim he is willing to make the proposal in regard to the debt; besides, by annexation the fund pledged for the payment of this debt became the property of the United States, he thought it but fair that this debt should be paid by her.

Mr. CLAY classes the fifth and sixth resolutions together. In regard to the fifth, he says that it asserts substantially the same principles which was asserted by three-fourths of the Senate, in a resolution passed in 1838, which affirmed that Congress should not abolish slavery in the District of Columbia while it existed in Maryland and Virginia, and not then without the consent of the people of the District, nor without due compensation being made to the owners. The sixth resolution Mr. CLAY said related to a matter which had grown to be a nuisance. It was not intended to interfere with the bona fide transfer of slaves between the inhabitants of the District among themselves, or with the people of the adjoining States, but to prevent Washington from being made a mart by regular slave traders, which he knew was unpleasant both to Northern and Southern Senators.

The seventh resolution he considered too evident to require any remarks. It was the subject of a bill under consideration.

The eighth resolution contemplated no action; it was merely the expression of a truth established by the highest judicial authority in this country.

In conclusion, Mr. CLAY made an appeal in favor of his measure of compromise. He said it had cost him long and anxious reflection, and he hoped Senators would not hastily reject it. He proposed that the discussion of the resolutions be fixed for that day week.

Mr. RUSK converted that portion of Mr. CLAY'S resolutions and speech relating to Texas. He regretted that the Senator, in his desire for compromise, should find it necessary to encroach upon the certain rights of Texas.

Mr. FOOTE briefly reviewed the resolutions. He was opposed to the use of the word *expedient* in regard to the abolition of slavery in the District—it should be *unjust or fraudulent*. He dissented from the opinion in regard to the Mexican law excluding slavery. He thought Congress had no right to anticipate futurity, by a declaration as to whether slavery would or would not go into the territories. The future should decide that. He was opposed to the assumption of State debts. Let the United States buy territory from Texas and pay her for it, but have nothing to do with the assumption of State debts.—He could see no great objection to abolishing the trade in slaves within the District, so that the doing of it involved no insult; nor was he opposed to the admission of California with its Southern boundary at 36° 30', provided a new slave State could be formed out of Texas to balance it.

Mr. CLAY replied, deprecating discussion at this time. He said he thought the ground taken in the resolution in regard to the District sufficiently strong. A discussion here arose between Messrs. CLAY, MASON, DAVIS and FOOTE, in regard to the resolutions of 1838. Mr. DAVIS considered Mr. CLAY'S proposed compromise as no compromise at all, because it requires everything from the South, and gives nothing in exchange. He thought the expression that slavery would never go into any of the new territories altogether gratuitous and unfounded. The business of mining and the climate of California was precisely that business and climate which the African race could endure with impunity, while the white population sinks under them. He thought California would yet adopt slavery.

Mr. CLAY rejoined. He did not think the abolition of slavery in the District unconstitutional. It would be wrong, he thought, but not unconstitutional. He would not, if he could, extend slavery—the territories might adopt it, and he would not oppose them; but he would do nothing that would tend to promote this object. He thought that it would be better for the South to leave the matter open, than to introduce the Missouri compromise.

Mr. DAVIS was surprised that the Senator should speak against a compromise which was his own work. Besides, he must differ altogether from the doctrine that slavery was excluded by the Mexican laws of the territories. Why, the admission of this doctrine would be the Wilmot Proviso under another form.

Mr. KING, of Alabama, regretted that this discussion had sprung up. He believed that the Senator from Kentucky had introduced his resolutions with the best motives. With some of them he agreed; with others he did not. He said that the South was contending for a great principle—Constitutional equality; and he could not sanction any resolutions that would seem to compromise it. She wanted no law to carry slavery into the territories, and she would submit to none keeping it out. He was inclined to give the resolutions a careful and attentive consideration. Some discussion arose between Messrs. CLAY and RUSK, in regard to the Texan territory. Mr. DAVIS expressed his dissent for the resolutions, and begged to have his protest recorded with them.

Mr. BERRIEN and Mr. BUTLER also briefly stated, that without important modifications, the resolutions could not meet their support. As they stood, all the concession was demanded from the South.

Mr. CASS wished to correct a mistake in regard to Michigan. Michigan was the second State that was admitted without a special law of Congress, authorizing her to form a State Constitution.

The resolutions were made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

After some unimportant business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was chiefly occupied in the discussion of the question of Mileage. This matter is uniformly brought up every session, and as uniformly laid over without any action, as it was in this instance.—The House, after a long discussion, passing over it informally, and taking up the joint resolution from the Senate in regard to the manuscript of Washington's Farewell Address, which was passed, with an amendment limiting the price to be paid to \$1,000. After some other business of no interest to our readers, the House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, January 30.

SENATE.

After the disposal of the morning business, such as the reception of petitions, reports, &c., Mr. HUSTON introduced a preamble and resolution, having for their object the extension of the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific. He also introduced a resolution for granting to every family now in the United States, or arriving before the 4th of March next, and not already land-holders or possessed of property to the amount of \$1500, 160 acres of land, to which, after a residence thereon of three years, and the erection of buildings and clearing ten acres, they shall receive a valid title, free of all expense. Mr. HUSTON made some remarks in favor of his resolution.

Mr. MANGUM said that as the tenure of negro property seemed to be considered rather precarious, he did not know but that he would throw in a negro apiece.

Mr. SEWARD brought up his resolution for giving a portion of the public lands to the Hungarian and other political refugees who may arrive upon our shores. He said it was not intended as an amendment to a resolution in regard to the public lands, introduced some days since by Mr. WEBSTER, but was intended as a separate measure.

Mr. DOUGLAS did not like the feature of Mr. SEWARD'S resolution, which gave a preference to foreigners over our own citizens. He himself had already introduced a bill upon this subject, which was before the Committee on Public Lands. He hoped that the discussion of Mr. WEBSTER'S and Mr. SEWARD'S resolutions might be continued, so that the Committee might learn the sentiments of the Senate.

Mr. BADGER thought the lands were pledged for the debt incurred in their acquisition, and he was opposed to giving them away.

The discussion was continued by Mr. BADGER and Mr. DAWSON against the policy of making grants of the public lands, and by Mr. DOUGLAS and Mr. SEWARD in favor of their respective propositions. At one time, Seward burst out into Abolitionism and other isms, and, strange to say, he escaped a setting down from Foote.

Mr. WALKER claimed priority in having bro't this matter before the Senate, having, at the commencement of the session, introduced a bill for the cession of the public lands to the States wherein they lie, and for their distribution by the States to actual settlers. The bill had been referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. HUSTON'S resolution was laid on the table for the present.

A resolution was introduced for the purchase of—copies of Professor Johnson's late work on coal and the coal trade. Referred.

The Senate passed a resolution to bind all public documents over three hundred pages, at a cost not exceeding 12½ cents per copy.

After some time spent in Executive business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the discussion of the mileage question, but after a considerable time spent in debate, the question was again laid on the table, and, upon motion of Mr. BAYLY, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, and took up the joint resolution from the Senate limiting the expense of collecting the revenue from customs for the present fiscal year.

Mr. BAYLY having obtained the floor, addressed the Committee at considerable length upon the subject before it. He said that, by the law of March 3, 1849, the expenses for collecting the revenue for the present fiscal year, commencing, according to his understanding, on the 1st of last July, were limited to \$1,560,000. Acting under the advice of the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury had understood it to commence with the 1st of January, 1850. But above that he would say no more. He would, however, remark, that during the ten months previous to that time, the Secretary of the Treasury, instead of endeavoring gradually to bring the expendi-

tures within the required standard, had, during the first six months of the present fiscal year, expended \$1,291,897 21, although aware that the law allowed him only \$780,000 for the last six months. The Secretary of the Treasury, instead of increasing his expenditures in the first half of the year, should have distributed his reductions throughout the whole time, and thus avoided a jar when the change did come. He had no right to act with total disregard of an existing law, upon the supposition of being able to force Congress into a precipitate retreat. An attempt was made to raise an outcry against Congress, whereas the Secretary alone is blameable.

In this condition of affairs, the Secretary of the Treasury asked the interposition of Congress. Congress, for some time after its meeting, could do no business for want of an organization. The Senate being first organized, took up the subject, and passed a joint resolution to give the Secretary the same amount which had been expended for a similar purpose during the fiscal year 1848. The revenue collected during the year ending June 30th, 1848, was \$32,034,276; the estimates for the present year, \$31,500,000. It was believed that what was sufficient for the first would certainly be sufficient for the second, but instead of that the Secretary had represented to the Committee, of which he was Chairman, (Ways and Means,) that this would give no relief—that the existing law gave him, according to his understanding, \$780,000, and the resolution gave him \$840,739 52—difference \$60,739 58. It was contended that the sudden reduction which this resolution would make necessary would be highly injurious to the public service; and it was proposed that we should appropriate, for the last half of the present fiscal year, one-half of what was expended in the year 1848. This was agreed to; and it is the amendment now before you.

In yielding this, it was believed that too much was granted. It was believed that in the expenditures for the first half of the year, the Secretary had exceeded both the law and the necessity of the case, but in case of any sudden derangement, it would be the country and not the Secretary which would suffer, consequently such a state of affairs was to be avoided.

Mr. BAYLY said the expenses of the revenue department were altogether too large; the per centage for collection was higher than that paid by any government in the world—State or national. In 1848 the per centage was nearly six and a half per cent. The sum demanded for 1849 by the Secretary, would be upwards of eight per cent. The Secretary estimates that the receipts from the customs for the year ending June, 1851, will be \$32,000,000; and he puts the expenses of collection at \$2,750,000, or at the rate of near nine per cent.

He believed that the per centage allowed for the collection of taxes in the States was generally five per cent.; at least, such was the rate in Virginia, and he did not know that it was higher in other States. In England, by the last return, the cost of collection was five nineteen-twentieths per cent. Why should it cost us more? Simply because too high salaries were paid to officers in the employ of the General Government. This is the case as connected with the customs, from the highest to the lowest. We pay the collector of Boston \$6,400; which is double what any State officer of Massachusetts receives. We pay the collector of New York the same. The Governor, who is expected to do the duties of the State, receives \$4,000. The Chief Justice, who must have the highest professional attainments, receives but \$3,000. So in Pennsylvania, the collector \$6,400; the Chief Justice about \$2,500. In Maryland, the collector \$6,400; the Governor \$2,000; and Chief Justice \$3,000.

Mr. BAYLY alluded to Mr. MEREDITH'S circular, which he considered a great error. It was no use to shift an expense from the department to merchants; it must eventually be borne by the public. In reply to a question, he said that the law of 1849 was not proposed or enacted from any feeling of hostility to the present administration. It originated as early as March, 1846, with Robert J. Walker, then Secretary, at the time when the present administration was not thought of. Mr. WALKER subsequently furnished a draft of a bill limiting expenses to \$1,520,000, which was to have went into operation on the 30th June, 1847, but which was delayed and did not pass the Senate until March 3, 1849, when, having been amended, it was sent to the House, a Whig body, and might have been rejected by that body had it chosen so to do.

The Committee of Ways and Means was in favor of the warehousing system, or, at least, the Democratic portion of that Committee. Some blunders had no doubt been made in organizing a new system, but, nevertheless, the system was good.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, obtained the floor for a speech upon the slavery question. Mr. BROWN took the usual Southern ground. He spoke in favor of the Nashville Convention, and of the principle of non-intervention.

At the close of his remarks, the Committee rose, reported progress, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, January 31.

SENATE.

Mr. MASON presented a bill, which he said had been drawn up with great care by a distinguished legal gentleman, which he proposed to introduce as a substitute for the bill in regard to the recovery of fugitive slaves, reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. He moved that it be laid on the table and printed, which was agreed to.

The bill for the division of the State of Arkansas into two judicial districts was taken up, discussed, and passed over informally. Various questions of precedence of business were disposed of, and the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Gen. CASS'S resolution for suspending diplomatic relations with Austria. Messrs. HUNTER, FOOTE, and SMITH, participated in the debate. Mr. BERRIEN obtained the floor, but yielded to an adjournment.

The Senate adjourned over until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met and soon after adjourned, out of respect to Hon. Rudolphus Dickinson, representative of the sixth district of Ohio, whose death, on the 20th of March last, was announced by his colleague, Mr. WOOD, who pronounced a feeling eulogy upon the deceased member.

SENATE NOT IN SESSION.

FRIDAY, February 1.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House was chiefly occupied in considering a report of the Committee on Engraving, in regard to engraving and lithographing the maps, views, &c., accompanying the President's Message. The Committee reported that the work could be done for \$13,000; they therefore moved that the Committee be authorized to have it done, should it not cost more than \$18,000. The margin of \$5,000 was left so as to allow the Committee to have a discretion in the mode of doing. The resolution was finally adopted. The House then went into an election for Chaplain, and, after three ballots, Rev. Mr. GURLEY, Presbyterian, was chosen Chaplain of the House, which was adjourned until Monday.

MONDAY, Feb. 4th.

SENATE.

The Senate was chiefly occupied in debating a bill

from the committee on the census. After considerable debate the Senate adjourned without taking any action.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

After the meeting of the House, a resolution of Mr. ROOT (Free Soiler) was taken up. The resolution instructs the Territorial Committee to bring in a bill for organizing governments for the territories, prohibiting slavery therein. On motion of Mr. HARALSON, of Geo., it was laid on the table without debate by a vote of 105 to 79.

Mr. GIDDINGS, (F. S.) introduced a resolution, declaring it the duty of Congress in organizing governments for the new territories, to secure equal rights to people of all colors. Laid on the table—ayes 104; nays 89.

Mr. DISNEY, of Ohio, introduced a series of resolutions, declaring that the people of every separate community have a right to frame their own domestic laws, and instructing the committee on the Judiciary to prepare an amendment to the Constitution, providing that the wishes of the people of the District of Columbia in regard to slavery shall govern the action of Congress in relation to its existence within its limits. Laid on the table.

Newbern